



12.21-04  
EV 317349629 US

JFW

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/662,205  
Filing Date: September 12, 2003  
Applicant: Rodney H. Thomas  
Group Art Unit: 3635  
Examiner: Nahid Amiri  
Title: COVERS, SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR COVERING DECK COMPONENTS  
Attorney Docket: 9847-000007/US

---

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

In response to the Office Action mailed December 9, 2004, Applicant respectfully elects the species identified in FIGS. 14-16B and claims 1, 4-9, 11, and 14-18 that read on this species.

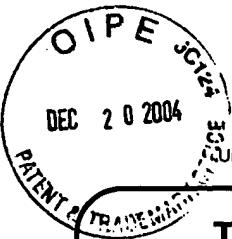
Applicant further submits that independent claims 1 and 11 are generic to at least FIGS. 14-17. Applicant therefore submits that all of claims 1-19 should be examined and that the species that are generic to independent claims 1 and 11 should be considered.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned directly at (314) 726-7502.

Dated: December 20, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

  
Anthony G. Fussner  
Reg. No. 47,582  
Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.  
7700 Bonhomme, Suite 400  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105  
314-726-7500 (telephone)  
314-726-7501 (facsimile)



EV 317349629 US

PTO/SB/21 (04-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006, OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

## TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

		Application Number	10/662,205
		Filing Date	September 12, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Rodney H. Thomas
		Art Unit	3635
		Examiner Name	Nahid Amiri
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	9847-000007US

### ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)   | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Technology Center (TC)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached  | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition   | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After Final   | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application               | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement                    | <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____                                      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)              |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application   |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 |   |   |

Remarks

**Response to Restriction Requirement  
Return Postcard**

### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name Anthony G. Fussner	Reg. No. 47,582
Signature			
Date	December 20, 2004		

### CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Typed or printed name	Anthony G. Fussner	Express Mail Label No.	EV 317349629US
Signature		Date	December 20, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.